



# ***THE LINK***

## **January 26, 2018**

**Sunday, January 28**

**10:00 AM Worship at the Luepke Center**

**11:00 AM Congregational Meeting on the Budget for 2018**

**Tuesday, January 30**

**10:30 AM**

**Installation Committee at the church office**

**Wednesday, January 31**

**10:00 AM Bible 103 at Salmon Creek UMC**

**17:00 PM Bible 103 at Salmon Creek UMC**

**Thursday, February 1**

**7:00 PM Choir at the WA State School for the Blind**

**Sunday, February 4**

**10:00 AM Worship at Luepke Community Center**

### ***SPECIAL CONCERNS***

**Tim Oppel**

**Joan Blair**

**Sue Rush**

**Dorothea Johnson**

**Ray and Patti Jones**

**Connie Oppel**

**The Schnabel Family**

**Alfried Goldstein**

**(Cindy McNally's Mother)**

**Josiah Renner**

**(Deployed to South Korea)**

## **First Congregational United Church of Christ**

### **Temporary Location for Worship:**

**The Luepke Center**

**1009 E. McLaughlin**

**Vancouver, WA**

### **Office Location:**

**1220 NE 68th Street**

**Vancouver, WA 98665**

**360-693-1476**

**From  
Our  
Pastor**



The season of Lent is a time of repentance, or turning toward God. If you have practiced Lent in the past, you may have been encouraged to give something you love up - like chocolate or television. In recent years, there has been a move to “take something on” during Lent rather than giving something up. Both of these are fine practices if they usher you more often into the presence of God. But for me, I know that in order to either give something up or take something on that will help me turn toward God, the first move is to be willing to be present to God. Only by returning to that willingness to be present many times a day will I feel the internal shift I seek at this time of year.

I know that this season of Lent is likely to be more poignant for us as a community than usual, as we anticipate the return to our building right around the time Lent is ending. For me, when something highly anticipated is on the viewable horizon, it makes it harder than ever to be willing to be present. So, even though this is an extra-busy time, I need to take more time, not less, to concentrate on noticing God’s leading in my life. How about you? I’ll be curious to hear from you about how your Lenten practice goes in the exciting weeks to come.

On Ash Wednesday, we will begin the Lenten season with a service of worship at noon at Vancouver Heights UMC, 5701 MacArthur Blvd, Vancouver, WA 98661. If you would like to further deepen your Lenten practice, during Sunday worship there will be a few copies of the UCC Lent Devotional booklet available for \$5.00 each.

See you in church!

Jennifer



Second Floor Elevator  
and New Office Door

**ARE YOU CURIOUS?**

On **Sunday, February 11th**, you are invited to tour the church to see for yourself how far we have come. Every day brings us closer and closer to returning to our ‘home’.

Tours will begin around 12:30.



**All women of the church are invited to  
celebrate sisterhood,**

**fellowship and friendship when the**

**Women’s Breakfast Group**

**meets at**

**9:30 a.m., Saturday,**

**February 10th at the Peachtree  
on Highway 99.**





### ***Looking Ahead for Youth—6-12th Grade:***

**March 9-10** Wrinkle in Time movie and sleepover for at Cedar Hills UCC. Cost will be \$15 but no one turned away for lack of funds so let me know if that is a hardship for you. **RSVP by February 16 to [Jennifer@vanucc.org](mailto:Jennifer@vanucc.org)** for this time for fun and exploring our faith with our UCC buddies from other churches.

**Registration** for youth summer camp for all ages at Camp Adams is now open. Check out [campadams.org](http://campadams.org) for more.



Does your household include preschool or elementary aged children? Are you a grandparent or other relative who cares for children regularly? If so, we want to hear from you! How can the church be more supportive of you and your family? What areas of faith development do you wish we could focus on more? And, last but certainly not least, how can we have more fun together?

**On Sunday, February 11<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 am in the library room at Luepke Center,** please join the Christian Education team for lunch and a brainstorm about how to best serve the youngest members of our church family and those who care for them. We'll all eat together, then Hailey and Brianna will take the kiddos outside to play while the adults meet.

Please RSVP to [Kathy@vanucc.org](mailto:Kathy@vanucc.org) by Weds, Feb 7 so that we can make sure we have enough food for you and your family. Contact [Jennifer@vanucc.org](mailto:Jennifer@vanucc.org) with questions, or if you can't make the meeting but have ideas or hopes to share.

-Pastor Jennifer and Christian Education Ministry